

Everything you need to know about being our **Drug Discovery Manager - Chemistry**

You'll apply expert knowledge of drug discovery principles and practices to guide the deployment of over £25m in funding through the Parkinson's Virtual Biotech programme. As part of the Virtual Biotech team you will evaluate new project proposals, manage our interactions with funded projects, and liaise with external partners and the Parkinson's community, whilst maintaining professional knowledge and networks.

You'll lead on our funding and oversight of some of our projects and support others; including developing robust project plans with the sponsor, featuring efficient use of external resource providers (e.g. for medicinal chemistry, compound synthesis, computational chemistry, crystallography, ADME/pharmacokinetics profiling, IP handling).

What you'll do

- Provide expert management and leadership for the charity's ongoing preclinical projects to ensure studies are delivered on time and on budget
- Participate in joint steering committees and other advisory meetings, providing expert scientific and strategic insight
- Identify and evaluate candidate service providers for project work packages
- Contribute to the design and evaluation of novel compounds
- Bring new initiatives and working practices to the Virtual Biotech, as appropriate
- Solicit external proposals for new projects and develop internal project proposals
- Critically review the relevant aspects of internal and external new drug discovery project proposals
- Work cross-functionally and with external partners to build a cohesive team
- Maintain scientific awareness of therapeutic opportunities in Parkinson's through literature review, scientific meetings and personal connections in the field
- Represent Parkinson's UK in collaborations, with consortia and at scientific meetings
- Interact with people with Parkinson's and involve them in projects in order to increase the opportunities to deliver new drugs that meet unmet medical needs

What you'll bring

- Extensive drug discovery experience with at least 5 years spent in pharma or biotech environments **A,I**
- Doctoral degree in a relevant discipline (Ph.D., M.D., D.Phil.) **A**
- Expert knowledge of small molecule drug discovery principles and practices including experience of compound design and evaluation **A,I**
- Excellent communication skills, with the ability to present complex information in suitable formats for both scientific and lay audiences
- Experience of neuroscience drug discovery **A,I**
- Track record of proposing new projects **A,I**
- Significant experience of project management and leadership skills from initiation to completion/review including selecting and working with CROs **A,I**
- Ability to lead cross functional teams **I**
- Ability to compile project proposals/reports suitable for scientific and non-scientific audiences **I**
- Ability to influence and engage internal and external stakeholders **I**
- Ability to prioritise own workload effectively and enable others to meet challenging deadlines **I**
- Experience of operating in a modern digital workplace, including using digital tools to work collaboratively and productively **I**

(A) assessed at the application stage **(I)** assessed at interview stage **(T)** assessed by a test/presentation

A bit more about the role

You'll report to the **Director of Parkinson's Virtual Biotech**

Your contract will be **permanent**

You'll work **35 hours a week**

You'll be based at a **combination between the UK office, London (Victoria) and your home (one day per week in the office)**

You'll be paid **£67,135.12 per year** (Travel expenses to the UK office are not covered by the charity)

Your main relationships will be with:

- **Colleagues in the seven-person Virtual Biotech directorate**
- **Scientists and managers from the projects we evaluate and fund**
- **Colleagues from Research and other directorates in Parkinson's UK**

Be part of the **Virtual Biotech** directorate

We're responsible for implementing Parkinson's UK's Virtual Biotech strategy. Our goal is to promote the development of better treatments and a cure for people with Parkinson's.

This is accomplished by acting in a manner similar to a Seed-to-Series A investment fund, providing funding to drug discovery and clinical trials projects. We work closely with the project teams we support, and in many cases co-investors from the charity and private capital sectors.

We intend to invest at least £25m of charity funds over the coming five years, working closely with our investment committee under a mandate from the charity's Board of Trustees.

What we do and how we do it

Our vision • our ultimate aim

Together we will find the cure, and improve life for everybody affected by Parkinson's.

Our social mission • what we deliver

We're a people-powered movement. On the verge of major breakthroughs in Parkinson's. By uniting we will find a cure. Together, we will help people get the best care and will ensure everyone sees the real impact of Parkinson's.

Our values • the way we work

- **People-first:** We're a strong movement for change, informed, shaped and powered by people affected by Parkinson's. We value and support each other.

- **Uniting:** We're people with Parkinson's, scientists and supporters, fundraisers and families, carers and clinicians. We're working, side by side, to improve the lives of everyone affected by Parkinson's
- **Pioneering:** We innovate across everything we do. Creative, courageous and with pioneering spirit, we strive to continually improve.
- **Driven:** We live and breathe our purpose. We set clear goals and strive to deliver the greatest impact for people affected by Parkinson's.

What we offer

Flexi-time – The scheme offers employees flexibility on start and finish times, and the ability to take back time you have worked above your contracted hours.

Annual and Christmas leave – We offer 25 days, rising by an additional day after two years and then another day after four years' service, taking you to 27 days. We also close for three days between Christmas and New Year, and you don't need to book this using your allowance.

Our UK Office - Take advantage of our UK office based in London, Victoria, which offers a great space to work with sit-stand work desks, touch points, collaboration spaces and private working booths. Most of our meeting rooms are now equipped with new Google Meet devices which let you easily conduct hybrid video conference calls and collaborate with both colleagues in the room and those joining remotely.

Pension – You'll be eligible and auto-enrolled into a pension scheme. We'll double your contribution up to 6% - so if you contribute 2%, we'll contribute 4% etc.

Salary Exchange - The scheme offers you to exchange part of your gross salary for pension contributions. Salary exchange is linked to our auto enrollment pension scheme and is operated on an opt-in basis.

Sabbatical Leave - The charity is committed to supporting our people in their personal and professional aspirations and offers sabbatical leave for up to six months after three years continuous service.

Learning and development – A key part of our People Strategy is to continue to develop and enhance the learning experience during your time at Parkinson's UK, and we are proud to offer many learning opportunities.

Maternity, adoption and shared parental pay – we offer an enhanced arrangement on the statutory entitlement. This is 8 weeks at full pay and 18 weeks at half pay dependent on your qualifying service.

Paternity pay – we offer up to 2 weeks full pay dependent on your qualifying service.

Family leave – these policies include compassionate, dependents, carers and bereavement leave that support the lives of employees who have additional commitments

Disability related leave - we offer this paid leave to support our people with disabilities or long term health conditions from the first day of employment

Interest-free season ticket loan – This will enable you to purchase an advance ticket more cheaply, once or twice a year, and benefit from the savings. You can apply after you're confirmed in post

Employee assistance programme – A free and confidential service which ranges from emotional support to financial advice.

Interest-free educational loan – This is our commitment to invest and support employees with continued learning.

Death in service cover – From your first day of service, we'll pay four times your salary, if you're aged between 16 and 70.

Ride2work programme – This is another scheme that enables employees to get tax incentives from cycling to work.